

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A weed ~~pulling-hoe~~ puller for gathering weeds at the interstices between the weed foliage above the ground and the weed root below the ground, the weed ~~pulling-hoe~~ puller comprising:

a ~~hoe~~ handle for being held by a standing operator at one end and supporting a ~~hoe~~ body generally normal to the handle at ~~the~~ a bottom distal end thereof;

the ~~hoe~~ body defining two blunted prongs on either side of a central is axis of the body extending away from the ~~attachment to~~ hoe handle along the ~~hoe~~ body, each prong terminating in a free end;

the two blunted prongs defining ~~there-between~~ therebetween a V-shaped gathering gap ~~with~~ formed by blunted opposed V-shaped edges on either side of the axis which extend from the free ends of the prongs to a blunted, rounded inner end of the gap;

the ~~hoe~~ body having a first ~~hoe~~ body portion which is planar and at substantial right angles to the handle between ~~the attachment to~~ the handle and the V-shaped gathering gap and a second ~~hoe~~ body portion which is planar ~~including~~ and includes portions of the two blunted prongs, the first portion being separated from the second portion along a bending axis normal to the central axis of the ~~hoe~~ body; and, and

the second ~~hoe~~ body portion including portions of the two prongs being bent upwardly and away from the first ~~hoe~~ body portion towards the ~~hoe~~ handle at an obtuse angle along the bending axis to form a weed pulling cradle area ~~at the bending axis~~ between the first ~~hoe~~ body portion and the second ~~hoe~~ body portion in the ~~hoe~~ body;

whereby a weed gathered between the V-shaped gathering gap between the weed foliage and the weed root is pulled between the first ~~hoe~~ body portion and the second ~~hoe~~ body

portion by the weed pulling cradle area when the handle is withdrawn from the ground towards the standing operator.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The weed ~~pulling hoe for gathering weeds~~ puller according to claim 1 ~~and further~~ wherein~~[[:]]~~ the ~~hoe body portion~~ defines a rectilinear exterior profile.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The weed ~~pulling hoe for gathering weeds~~ puller according to claim 2 ~~and further~~ wherein~~[[:]]~~ the two prongs each ~~defined~~ define portions of the rectilinear exterior profile of the hoe body portion; ~~and, and the prongs are~~ body is sharpened along the rectilinear exterior profile, ~~whereby the prongs can be utilized for a conventional hoeing for use of the body for conventional weeding.~~

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (new): A weed puller for pulling weeds including their roots out of the ground without severing the weeds from their roots, the puller comprising:

an elongated body defining a body axis and first and second body portions which are angularly inclined about a bending axis that is transverse to the body axis located between ends of the body, the first body portion being connected to a handle extending generally perpendicularly to the first body portion, the second body portion being inclined relative to the first body portion about the bending axis at an angle between 10° to 50°; and

a generally V-shaped gap formed in the body and extending from a free end of the second body portion past a bending line into the first body portion, the V-shaped gap being defined by converging, blunted edges and a blunted end at the first body portion extending between the blunted edges and forming a relatively narrow slot accommodating the root of the weed when the puller is pulled along the ground and the root has entered the gap while a plant portion of the weed is gathered on top of the body in the vicinity of the bending axis to thereby permit pulling the weed including its root out of the ground.

Claim 7 (new): A weed puller according to claim 6 wherein the angle is approximately 30°.

Claim 8 (new): A weed puller for removing weeds including their roots from the ground comprising:

- a generally V-shaped weed pulling body having a longitudinal axis, first and second body portions, and a bending axis between the first and second body portions that is transverse to the pulling axis;

- a connector for attaching a handle to one end of the body so that the first body portion is substantially perpendicular to the handle and the second body portion is inclined relative to the handle by an angle greater than 10° so as to form a weed receiving cradle with the body;

- a V-shaped slot formed by the body and extending from a free end of the second body portion in a converging manner to facilitate gathering weeds in the cradle as the weed puller is dragged over the ground, the gap including an inner end part which is substantially narrower than a remainder of the gap for engaging the root of a weed, edges of the first and second body portions forming the gap being blunt to prevent cutting the root of the weed as the puller is dragged over the ground,

whereby a weed having its root engaged by the edges defining the gap and its weed growth supported by the cradle can be pulled from the ground by moving the body with the weed away from the ground.

Claim 9 (new): A weed puller for removing weeds including their roots from the ground comprising:

- a generally rectilinear plate having a length which is greater than its width and defining first and second plate portions which are contiguous in a longitudinal direction of the plate;

- a connector proximate a longitudinal end of the first plate portion for attaching a handle to the plate; and

- a V-shaped slot extending in a longitudinal direction from a free end of the second

plate portion towards and into the first plate portion, edges of the plate defining the V-shaped groove being blunted to prevent them from cutting weeds and their roots, the second plate portion being bent relative to the first plate portion in a transverse direction at a location along the length of the plate so that an inner end of the V-shaped groove is at least partly located within the first plate portion and forms spaced-apart prongs extending from the first plate portion over the length of the second portion and terminating in free ends which are bent relative to the first plate portion towards the handle connector.

Claim 10 (new): A weed puller according to claim 9 wherein lateral sides of the plate define sharpened edges.